



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

December 10, 2018

Ray and Edward Riehle
6830 Antelope Road, Ste. H
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Dear Mr. and Mr. Riehle:

Thank you for your letter (undated) with 9 cents enclosed.

On our Archdiocesan website, last week (still available in the archives) the noted commentator, George Wiegel, made some cogent remarks on the abuse crisis the Church faces, and the anger associated with it. I would encourage you to read it and the article by Kenneth Woodward, a former editor of Newsweek, he recommends.

Regarding the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report, Woodward writes:

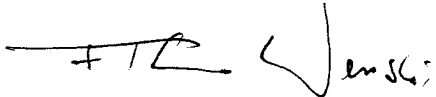
“...the way Pennsylvania attorney general Josh Shapiro presented the report — and the way it was often described in the press — made it easy to assume that the grand jury had unearthed three hundred new clerical abusers, when in fact most of the abuse covered in the report occurred in the last century and roughly eight out of ten of the alleged abusers are dead. It was easy to overlook the good news in an otherwise disheartening report — namely, that since the U.S. bishops established stringent new procedures for handling allegations of sexual abuse in 2003, only two priests from the seven dioceses studied have been accused.”

Mr. Wiegel adds: “The ‘narrative’ of an ongoing, widespread, and unaddressed rape culture in the Catholic Church in the United States is false. But as one state attorney general after another finds political hay to be made by investigating the Catholic past, it is essential that Catholics understand that a lot of the awfulness that is going to keep coming out — both in terms of abusive clergy and malfeasant bishops — was in the past.”

In 2002, with the Dallas Charter the US bishops addressed the crisis of the sexual abuse of minors. If certain bishops have failed in their commitment to follow the Charter they should be held accountable. In any case, the anger of many people towards bishops and other Church leaders shows that for too many victims and their families the reforms of 2002 came too late.

I think if you took time to inform yourself you would find that “consequential and effective action” has been taken by the bishops. Don’t be trolled by those who use “outrage” as a strategy to drive readers (and therefore advertising revenues) to their blogs.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Wenski". The signature is stylized with a horizontal line and a large, looped initial.

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami